IN THE CLAIMS:

1-52. (canceled)

53. (new) A purified polynucleotide, comprising an Open Reading Frame contained within SEQ ID NO:1 or fragment thereof, wherein the polynucleotide is selected from:

(a) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,696,441 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,697,420 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,699,892 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,701,088 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,702,588 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(f) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,704,091 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(g) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,705,056 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(h) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,705,784 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

(i) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,706,593 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(j) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,707,524 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;or

(k) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,708,648 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome.

54. (new) A purified polynucleotide, comprising an Open Reading Frame contained within SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide is selected from:

(a) nucleotide 1,696,728 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,698,096 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,700,210 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,701,293 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,703,072 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis chromosome;

(f) nucleotide 1,704,091 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis chromosome;

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

(g) nucleotide 1,705,056 through nucleotide 1,708,746 f the *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis chromosome;

(h) nucleotide 1,705,808 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium* tuberculosis chromosome

(i) nucleotide 1,706,631 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome; or

(j) nucleotide 1,707,530 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome.

55. (new) A purified polynucleotide, comprising an Open Reading Frame contained within SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide is selected from:

(a) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,698,096 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,700,210 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,701,293 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,703,072 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,704,091 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

(f) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,705,056 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(g) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,705,808 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome

(h) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,706,631 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome; or

(i) nucleotide 1,696,015 through nucleotide 1,707,530 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome.

56. (new) A purified polynucleotide, comprising an Open Reading Frame contained within SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the polynucleotide is selected from:

(a) nucleotide 1,696,441 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(b) nucleotide 1,697,420 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(c) nucleotide 1,699,892 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* chromosome;

(d) nucleotide 1,701,088 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(e) nucleotide 1,702,588 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

(f) nucleotide 1,704,091 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(g) nucleotide 1,705,056 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(h) nucleotide 1,705,784 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;

(i) nucleotide 1,707,524 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome;or

(j) nucleotide 1,706,593 through nucleotide 1,708,746 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis chromosome.

57. (new) A purified polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions with the purified polynucleotide of any one of claims 53-56.

58. (new) The purified polynucleotide of claim 57, wherein the stringent hybridization conditions comprise a hybridization step at 65°C in 6X SSC buffer, 5X Denhardt's solution, 0.5% SDS, and 100 µg/ml of salmon sperm DNA, two five minute washing steps at 65°C in 2X SSC and 0.1% SDS buffer, a 30 minute washing step at 65°C in 2X SSC and 0.1% SDS buffer, and a ten minute washing step at 65°C in 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS buffer.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com